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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Significance of the Osteological Characters of the Chionides.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK,'

Dear Sir:—

My attention has been called to the very excellent and comprehensive article by Dr. Percy R. Lowe on "Studies on the Charadriiformes.— III. Notes in Relation to the Systematic Position of the Sheath-bills (Chionididæ)," which appeared in 'The Ibis' of last January (1916); I have also read 'The Auk's' comments thereon and citation therefrom (April, 1916, p. 220).

Since reading Doctor Lowe's article, I have gone over the osteological material representing the Sheath-bills in the collection of the United States National Museum, and compared the skull and other bones of several of these birds with the corresponding parts of the skeleton in the fowls, pigeons, plovers, oyster-catchers, and their allies near and remote. So far as I am personally concerned, I find little or nothing in the strictures made by Doctor Lowe in his above cited contribution, reproduced in the last